

**FOR
AGENDA**

SM/08/311

Supplement 2

October 1, 2008

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Sri Lanka—Staff Report for the 2008 Article IV Consultation—
Informational Annex**

The attached informational annex is being issued as a supplement to the staff report for the 2008 Article IV consultation with Sri Lanka (SM/08/311, 10/1/08), which is tentatively scheduled for discussion on **Friday, October 17, 2008**. At the time of circulation of this paper to the Board, the Secretary's Department has not received a communication from the authorities of Sri Lanka indicating whether or not they consent to the Fund's publication of this paper; such communication may be received after the authorities have had an opportunity to read the paper.

Questions may be referred to Mr. Faal (ext. 36798) and Mr. Saxegaard (ext. 39739) in APD.

Unless the Documents Section (ext. 36760) is otherwise notified, the document will be transmitted, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Executive Board and with the appropriate deletions, to the WTO Secretariat on Thursday, October 9, 2008; and to the Asian Development Bank, following its consideration by the Executive Board.

This document will shortly be posted on the extranet, a secure website for Executive Directors and member country authorities. This supplement is not being disseminated in hard copy. It can be accessed in the Institutional Repository. A link to this document can be found in the daily list (<http://www-int.imf.org/depts/sec/services/eb/dailydocumentsfull.htm>) for the issuance date shown above.

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

SRI LANKA

Staff Report for the 2008 Article IV Consultation—Informational Annex

Prepared by the Asia and Pacific Department

September 30, 2008

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ANNEX I: SRI LANKA—FUND RELATIONS

(As of August 31, 2008)

I.	Membership Status	Joined 8/29/50; accepted Article VIII, Sections 2, 3, and 4, March 1994.	
II.	General Resources Account	SDR Million	Percent Quota
	Quota	413.40	100.00
	Fund holdings of currency	469.77	113.64
	Reserve position in Fund	47.86	11.58
III.	SDR Department	SDR Million	Percent Allocation
	Net cumulative allocation	70.87	100.00
	Holdings	2.17	3.06
IV.	Outstanding Purchases and Loans	SDR Million	Percent Quota
	Emergency Assistance	90.43	21.88
	PRGF arrangements	38.39	9.29
	Extended arrangements	13.78	3.33

V. Financial Arrangements

Type	Approval Date	Expiration Date	Amount Approved (SDR Million)	Amount Drawn (SDR Million)
EFF	Apr 18, 2003	Apr 17, 2006	144.40	20.67
PRGF	Apr 18, 2003	Apr 17, 2006	269.00	38.39
Stand-by	Apr 20, 2001	Sep 19, 2002	200.00	200.00

VI. Projected Obligations to Fund—Obligation basis (SDR million; based on existing use of resources and present holdings of SDRs)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Principal	31.40	62.80	22.32	9.40	11.12
Charges/interest	1.60	4.71	2.72	2.41	2.27
Total	33.00	67.51	25.04	11.81	13.39

VII. Exchange Rate Arrangement

Dejure managed float; de facto pegged. The central bank floated the rupee on January 23, 2001. The CBSL has removed the foreign exchange regulations that were imposed after the float. All import margin requirements (50 percent) with respect to certain goods (which are a “normal short term banking and credit facility” under Article XXX(d)),

introduced in October 2006, were removed in May 2007, but the 100 percent margin requirements on the import of certain vehicles remain in place.

VIII. Safeguards Assessment

Under the Fund's safeguards assessment policy, the CBSL is subject to a full safeguards assessment with respect to the PRGF arrangement which was approved on April 18, 2003. The assessment was completed on July 30, 2003 and concluded that the CBSL had made commendable progress in strengthening its safeguards since the 2001 assessment. As a result, the risk ratings have been upgraded in four of the five areas of the safeguards framework. The report found a few remaining vulnerabilities that could be addressed through a series of measures to further strengthen the CBSL's operations. The authorities have already implemented most of the proposed measures, including the full implementation of International Accounting Standards, and committed to implementation of the outstanding ones, including in the context of the new Central Banking Act.

IX. Article IV Consultation

It is expected that the next Article IV consultation with Sri Lanka will be in accordance with the provisions applying to countries on the standard consultation cycle. The Executive Board is tentatively expected to conclude the 2008 Article IV consultation on October 27, 2008.

X. FSAP and ROSC Participation

- MFD: Both the FSSA and the FSAP reports were completed in 2002.
- MCM: An FSAP update took place in June 2007.
- STA: A data ROSC was completed and the report published in 2002.
- FAD: A fiscal transparency ROSC was completed and the report published in 2002. A ROSC update was completed and the report published in July 2005.

XI. Resident Representative

The resident representative office in Colombo was closed in January 2007.

ANNEX II: SRI LANKA—RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK GROUP¹

(As of July 28, 2008)

The last Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for FY09-12 and Joint Staff Advisory Note (JSAN) for Sri Lanka was discussed at the Bank's Board in June 2008. It was prepared during a challenging time for Sri Lanka, and in circumstances that are significantly different from those in 2003 when the last CAS was discussed. After a temporary slowdown in armed confrontation following the 2002 ceasefire agreement (CFA), violence reemerged in 2005. In January 2008, the Government announced its intention to unilaterally abrogate the CFA. Despite the escalating conflict, economic growth has been strong—7.7 percent in 2006 and 6.8 percent in 2007. But macroeconomic imbalances, particularly high inflation and persistent budget and external deficits, are emerging as serious concerns. Although poverty has declined on account of strong economic growth, there has been little change in inequality. Overall, the political constraints and uncertainties have affected the peace process, policy implementation and the environment for pro-poor, broad-based economic growth.

A. IMF-World Bank Collaboration in Specific Areas

World Bank Activities

Support on the implementation of reforms in public administration and public expenditure management includes the *e-Sri Lanka Development Project* that aims to enhance growth, employment and equity by promoting affordable access to and wide use of on-line public information and services by citizens and businesses and private sector competitiveness, particularly of knowledge industries and small and medium enterprises. The *Public Sector Capacity Building Project* aims to strengthen and modernize key public sector institutions and build technical capacity to improve public administration and public financial management. The Bank has also led the dialogue on public expenditure issues, primarily to assist in the efforts to implement a medium term budget framework (MTBF).

In the health sector, the recently closed *National HIV/AIDS Prevention* project supported efforts in curbing the spread of HIV infection. The Bank also worked closely with the authorities in developing a health sector strategy/program that resulted in the financing of the *Health Sector Development* operation. Analytical work on ageing has been recently completed.

In the education sector, the Bank is involved in the *Education Sector Development Project*, which promotes equitable access to and improved quality of basic and secondary education. With regard to reform of the tertiary sector, Bank support is being provided through the *Improving the Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education* project.

¹ Prepared by the World Bank staff.

In rural development, the Bank completed a major study focusing on the constraints to and actions needed to sustain the growth of the tea and rubber sectors, and to improve the welfare of the large number of tea and rubber dependent households. The ***Community Development and Livelihood “Gemi Diriya”*** project addresses poverty reduction and reinvigoration of the rural economy. A follow-on project is under preparation.

In the area of peace and reconstruction of the North and East (NE), the ***North East Irrigated Agriculture Project II*** (NEIAP II) helps conflict-affected communities in the NE and adjoining areas in restoring livelihoods, enhancing agricultural and other production and incomes, and building capacity for sustainable, social and economic reintegration. To address housing needs, the ***North East Housing Reconstruction Project*** (NEHRP) is providing the poorest conflict-affected families in the NE (that meet accepted vulnerability criteria) with improved and affordable housing units. The ***Sri Lanka Puttalam Housing Project*** supports the integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Puttalam by upgrading and improving the habitat, water and sanitation facilities of both IDPs and select non-IDPs.

Through the ***Renewable Energy for Rural Economic Development*** (RERED) project, the Bank is helping to improve the quality of rural life by utilizing off-grid renewable energy technologies to bring electricity to remote communities and promote private sector power generation from renewable energy resources from the main grid. In addition, through the ***Second Community Water Supply and Sanitation*** (CWSSP II) project, the Bank is supporting the implementation of demand-responsive and sustainable rural water and sanitation services. The ***Dam Safety and Water Resources Planning Project*** is supporting efforts to ensure public safety in relation to risks associated with ageing dams and to better manage water resources. A large Road Sector ***Assistance Project*** aims to lower transportation costs through sustainable delivery of an efficient national road system.

World Bank and IMF Collaboration

The World Bank and the IMF worked closely to put together the JSAN on the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the Government of Sri Lanka—as part of the Bank’s CAS.

The PRSP was composed of (a) the government’s long term vision/strategy paper titled “*Mahinda Chintana* (MC): Vision for a New Sri Lanka—A Ten Year Horizon Development Framework 2006-2016” (released in November 2006); (b) Ministry of Finance “Fiscal Management Report—2008”; (c) Central Bank of Sri Lanka “Road Map: Monetary and Financial Sector Policies for 2008 and Beyond”; and (d) an updated 5-year macroeconomic framework prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

At the outset, the WB-IMF staff teams recognized that the JSAN was prepared at a challenging time for Sri Lanka when violence and armed confrontations have intensified and the macroeconomic situation was under considerable stress. Nevertheless, the MC envisages an ambitious increase in growth, a rapid reduction in inflation, and a sustained decline in the government’s debt burden. The teams concurred that in order to ensure feasibility of MC’s targets, the authorities would need to adopt a more coherent macroeconomic policy aimed at fiscal consolidation, curbing inflation and protecting external stability. The teams also

endorsed the recognition in the MC that the role of the state is to provide a facilitating environment for private sector led growth and investment. However, in implementing the strategy, the teams recommended more *specificity* in policy actions aligned with the broad and comprehensive objectives laid out for sectors. The teams noted that specificity is currently lacking especially in areas where policy reforms rather than additional resources are needed to achieve the desired results. Furthermore, staff teams also recommended more prioritization among the wide-ranging programs listed in MC, given the limited resources and implementation capacity within the government.

The WB and IMF will collaborate on financial markets issues including follow up on issues flagged in the FSAP.

World Bank Group Strategy and Lending Operations

Country Assistance Strategy. The FY09-12 CAS and JSAN for Sri Lanka were discussed by the Bank's Board on June 5, 2008. In light the complex and challenging environment, the new CAS adopts a more focused approach to the areas of engagement and a more flexible approach to the nature of the Bank's engagement in Sri Lanka. The CAS supports the overall objectives of the MC and outlines three strategic objectives: (i) expanding economic opportunities in lagging regions, (ii) improving the investment climate and competitiveness, and (iii) enhancing quality services and accountability. The CAS also recognizes that the ongoing armed conflict is an important stumbling block to long-term development and poverty alleviation, and proposes to emphasize efforts to improve access to public services and enhance livelihood opportunities in conflict-affected areas, as well as ensure inter-ethnic awareness in designing and implementing its projects. Strengthening transparency and accountability is another cross-cutting theme of the CAS.

Bank Assistance Program in Sri Lanka. The Bank's active portfolio as of July 28, 2008 comprises 14 IDA credits/grants and one Global Environmental Facility (GEF) grant for a total commitment of \$1,004.8 million (Table II.1). The FY08 lending program included two new projects (Dam Safety and Water Resources Planning and Public Sector Capacity Building) and three additional financing (Education Sector Development, North East Housing Reconstruction, and Road Sector Assistance).

Economic and Sector Work. A number of important sector reports/policy notes were completed during FY07–FY08, including: *Agriculture Research and Extension Review*, *Sri Lanka Economic Report for Development Forum*, *Housing Finance*, *Tea and Rubber Sector Review*, *Study on Aging*, *Private Renewable Power Generation*, *Malnutrition*, and *Sri Lanka Bank Governance Assessment*. Ongoing work includes: *Policy Note on Higher Education*, *Country Environment Analysis*, *Study on Growth Potential in Lagging Regions*, *Report on Openness and Jobs*, *Cost of No Reform*, and *Environmentally Sustainable Power Development*.

Table II.1. Summary of World Bank Operations
(As of July 28, 2008)

FY	Purpose	Original Amount in US\$ Millions				Undisb.
		IBRD	IDA	SF	GEF	
2008	Public Sector Capacity Building Project	0.00	22.60			22.6
2008	Dam Safety and Water Resources Planning	0.00	65.30	0.00	0.00	65.30
2007	Sri Lanka: Puttalam Housing Project	0.00	32.00	0.00	0.00	30.80
2006	Education Sector Development Project	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	50.20
2006	Sri Lanka - Road Sector Assistance	0.00	198.10	0.00	0.00	141.60
2005	Sri Lanka Tsunami ERL	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	4.60
2005	North East Housing Reconstruction Program	0.00	118.00	0.00	0.00	58.50
2005	E-Sri Lanka Development	0.00	53.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
2004	NEAP II	0.00	64.70	0.00	0.00	54.20
2004	HEALTH SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	18.00
2004	Community Development & Livelihood "Gemi Diriya"	0.00	51.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
2003	Second Community Water	0.00	39.80	0.00	0.00	15.10
2003	Relevance and Quality of Undergrad. Educe	0.00	40.30	0.00	0.00	16.10
2002	Renewable Energy for Rural Economic Dev.	0.00	115.00	0.00	8.00	47.85
Total:		0.00	1,004.80	0.00	8.00	579.85

IFC's Activities in Sri Lanka. As of September 30, 2007, IFC's held portfolio in Sri Lanka consisted of investments in eight companies, with a total committed exposure of US\$155 million. The portfolio is spread over financial institutions, power, health care, manufacturing, ports and telecommunications. Greater investment involvement is linked to progress on the political/security situation. IFC remains interested in investing in Sri Lanka (especially in infrastructure, manufacturing and financial markets) depending upon progress on reforms. In FY06, IFC opened a dedicated small and medium enterprise development technical assistance program for Sri Lanka and the Maldives under the South Asia Enterprise Development Facility ('IFC-SEDF'). The IFC and the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway have provided the initial funding of US\$5.5 million. Fund raising efforts are continuing and Program activities will be expanded as more donors participate in the Program. The program aims to support the growth of SMEs through three components: Access to Finance, Value Addition to Firms (VAF) and Business Enabling environment. It contributes to broader-based economic growth, and hence to sustainable poverty reduction in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Questions may be referred to Rajashree Paralkar (458-9050) and on IFC to Neil Gregory (473-8559).

ANNEX III: SRI LANKA—RELATIONS WITH THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Sri Lanka has received \$4.2 billion for 141 public sector loans and \$94.5 million for 224 technical assistance projects since joining the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966. As of December 2007, there were 46 ongoing public sector loans for a total loan amount of \$2.1 billion, including \$156 million in three program loans. Of these 46 loans, 12 were financed from ordinary capital resources (OCR) and 34 from the Asian Development Fund (ADF). Sri Lanka received a grant of \$150 million from ADB's Asian Tsunami Fund for post Tsunami reconstruction in 2005 and that project is ongoing.

The Asian Development Bank approved 3 loans in 2007. The Colombo Port Expansion Project was approved for \$300 million from OCR funds. The Education for Knowledge Society Project and the Small and Medium Regional Development Project were funded with ADF funds; \$65 million and \$50 million respectively.

ADB approved one technical assistance grants in 2007 for a total of \$ 0.6 million.

ADB is in the process of approving the new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Sri Lanka in 2008. The new strategy will determine ADB's assistance program for the next three years, including the sectors and project pipeline. It will also reflect government priorities outlined in the national strategy, the "Mahinda Chintana", and in particular provide extensive support to infrastructure development, especially in transport, power, and water supply. Further support for fiscal management is also planned. The new strategy will also emphasize a conflict sensitive approach in ADB's operations.

ADB's top priorities in Sri Lanka are supporting broad-based economic growth, advancing social development and supporting improved governance. Emphasis will also be placed on poorer regions, focusing on decentralizing economic activities away from the Western province.

As of December 2007, the sectoral distribution of the loan portfolio was Agriculture and Natural Resources, 8 percent; Education, 9 percent; Energy, 4 percent; Finance, 6 percent; Industry and Trade, 6 percent; Law, Economic Management and Public Policy, 1 percent; Transport and Communications, 42 percent; Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Management, 14 percent; Multi-sectors, 10 percent.

Lending by the Asian Development Bank, 2003–2007

(In millions of U.S. dollars)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Approvals	275	195	253	60	415
Net resource transfer	166	116	122	73	43
Disbursement	225	186	206	180	138

Source: Asian Development Bank.

ANNEX IV: SRI LANKA—STATISTICAL ISSUES

Data provision has some shortcomings, but is broadly adequate for surveillance. The authorities supply key data to the Fund on a timely basis, and publish data regularly, including daily information on money and foreign exchange through electronic media. Quarterly national accounts and monthly monetary and fiscal revenue data are published regularly. Sri Lanka is a participant in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) since July 2000. In February 2003, the authorities appointed a coordinator with the objective of subscribing to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). However, substantial work is still needed for meeting all SDDS requirements, including and preparing the necessary metadata.

Most recommendations in the 2001 data ROSC have been implemented while others are expected to be implemented in the near future. In particular, most data are now being disseminated in the Census and Statistics and central bank websites; a census of industries is underway while a Census of Agriculture (including the North and East) has been finalized; a labor force survey is being conducted on a quarterly basis; and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has issued an advance release calendar and designated a contact person to assist data users.

Real Sector

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) released a new Consumer Price Index for Colombo—the CCPI(N)—in 2007, replacing the Sri Lanka Consumer Price Index (SLCPI) and the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). The CCPI(N) is based on the spending pattern reflected in the 2002 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. It is based on the spending patterns of all urban households in the Colombo district. A core inflation index based on the CCPI(N) is also compiled by the DCS. It excludes all food and fuel prices to provide a measure of underlying inflation. The CBSL produces a Wholesale cum-Producer Price Index (WPI/PPI).

The national accounts suffer from insufficient data sources and undeveloped statistical techniques. The country does not have periodic comprehensive benchmarks or a system of regular annual surveys of establishments. A statistical business register, which would serve as the main basis for conducting sample surveys, is not available. As a result, the few surveys that are conducted do not have good sample frames. Most of the data used are obtained on a timely basis. However, detailed data needed to measure both output and intermediate consumption are mostly unavailable or not collected. As a result, the estimates of gross value added are prepared directly relying on outdated fixed ratios established from the base year 1996, often with outdated studies or ad hoc assumptions. Quarterly indicators are used for compiling quarterly value added estimates. The methodology for deriving GDP at constant prices is not satisfactory. Expenditure estimates are available only annually and rely mostly on commodity flow techniques. Whenever possible, estimates are validated and checked with other sources.

Fiscal Sector

In May 2003, a STA mission followed up on the ROSC recommendation to develop a migration path to compile data in accordance with the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001)*. As part of that plan, the authorities agreed to revise (beginning in end-2003) the budgetary classifications and the accounting structure to eventually match the *GFSM 2001* classifications of stocks and flows and to apply that chart of accounts to all general government units. Cash data through 2005 were reported for publication in the 2006 *GFS Yearbook*. These data cover only the budgetary accounts of central government. No data on the four extra-budgetary funds or the provincial and local governments are provided. No sub-annual data are provided for publication in IFS.

Monetary Sector

Foreign Currency Banking Units (FCBUs) are classified as resident institutions in the monetary survey since 1998. To adjust for the proportion of nonresident foreign currency deposits (NRFC), which are actually held by residents (mainly returning migrant workers), 50 percent of these deposits are reclassified from foreign liabilities to domestic deposits.

In June 2003, a STA mission followed up on issues raised during the 2001 ROSC mission. In particular, the mission clarified the methodology for the treatment of Fund accounts; recommended that repos be treated as collateralized loans (rather than on a change of ownership basis); and resolved discrepancies between the monetary authorities' data reported to STA and to APD, which reflected problems in the valuation of Fund accounts and other shortcomings. The most recent monetary data published in *IFS* (September 2008 issue) are for December 2007. The authorities have been encouraged to reduce the time lag for data reporting. The authorities have not yet submitted test data in the format of Standardized Report Forms developed by STA for reporting monetary data that embody the methodology of the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual*.

External Sector

The CBSL publishes balance of payments statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. Quarterly data are available three months after the end of the quarter. The data largely follow the fifth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual*.

A STA mission visited Colombo in December 2004. The highest priority issues identified by the mission included dealing with shortcomings in the international transactions reporting system (ITRS), which is the primary data source for the balance of payments. The recommended improvements included addressing the large values of unclassified transactions, inclusion of FCBUs in the data, and providing an instruction book to assist ITRS reporters to apply classifications and coding more accurately. The mission advised the authorities on the need to develop a comprehensive survey to implement their medium-term plan to introduce international investment position statistics. As explained in the GDDS website, the FCBUs are now included in the data and that work has been done toward compiling international investment position statistics. The CBSL has stated that it has started to develop international investment position statistics, but they have not yet been published.

Sri Lanka: Table of Common Indicators Required for Surveillance

As of September 16, 2008

	Date of Latest Observation	Date Received	Frequency of Data ⁷	Frequency of Reporting ⁷	Frequency of Publication ⁷	Memorandum Items:	
						Data Quality—Methodological Soundness ⁸	Data Quality Accuracy and Reliability ⁹
Exchange rates	Today	Today	D	D	D		
International reserve assets and reserve liabilities of the Monetary Authorities ¹	6/2008	8/2008	M	M	M		
Reserve/base money	6/2008	8/2008	M	M	M	LO, LO, LO, LO	LO, O, O, NA, NA
Broad money	6/2008	8/2008	M	M	M		
Central bank balance sheet	6/2008	8/2008	M	M	M		
Consolidated balance sheet of the banking system	6/2008	8/2008	M	M	M		
Interest rates ²	Today	Today	D	D	D		
Consumer price index (New Colombo CPI)	8/2008	8/2008	M	M	M	O, LNO, LO, O	O, LO, O, NA, NA
Revenue, expenditure, balance and composition of financing ³ —general government ⁴							
Revenue, expenditure, balance and composition of financing ³ —central government	5/2008	9/2008	M	M	M	O, O, O, O	LO, NA, LO, NA, LO
Stocks of central government and central government-guaranteed debt ⁵	6/2008	9/2008	M	M	M		
External current account balance	Q4/2007	6/2008	Q	Q	Q		
Exports and imports of goods and services	Q4/2007	6/2008	Q	Q	Q	LO, LO, LO, LO	LO, LO, LO, NA, LO
GDP/GNP	Q1/2008	6/2008	Q	Q	Q	LO, LO, LNO, LNO	LNO, LNO, LO, NA, O
Gross external debt	12/2007	6/2008	A	A	A		
International Investment Position ⁶	NA	NA	NA	NA	Na		

¹Includes reserve assets pledged or otherwise encumbered as well as net derivative positions.

²Both market-based and officially-determined, including discount rates, money market rates, rates on treasury bills, notes and bonds.

³Foreign, domestic bank, and domestic nonbank financing.

⁴The general government consists of the central government (budgetary funds, extra budgetary funds, and social security funds) and state and local governments.

⁵Including currency and maturity composition.

⁶Includes external gross financial asset and liability positions vis-à-vis nonresidents.

⁷Daily (D); Weekly (W); Monthly (M); Quarterly (Q); Annually (A); Irregular (I); Not Available (NA).

⁸Reflects the assessment provided in the data ROSC published in May 2002 and based on the findings of the mission that took place during June 2001 for the dataset corresponding to the variable in each row. The assessment indicates whether international standards concerning (respectively) concepts and definitions, scope, classification/sectorization, and basis for recording are fully observed (O), largely observed (LO), largely not observed (LNO), not observed (NO), or not applicable (NA).

⁹Same as footnote 8, except referring to international standards concerning (respectively) source data, statistical techniques, assessment and validation of source data, assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs, and revision studies.